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that comes to mind is, in terms of higher education, you could achieve a lot of cost avoidance if students would go to institutions in other states. I don't think that's really a relevant alternative for us. I would also mention that cost avoidance is certainly not, I think, a main argument in funding public versus private and parochial schools. The constitution, again as I mentioned, states very clearly that we will provide a public education alternative for students. We will do that, in my view. And if all private and parochial schools disappeared tomorrow, which I certainly hope they don't do, because I emphasize I think they provide a valuable addition to our K-12 education system, but if they all dissipated...disappeared tomorrow we would educate those students. It's a constitutional obligation and we would take care of it. So cost avoidance, in my view, is not the issue here. I don't think we talk about all the money we could save, or we do save, because of this or that. Again, the obligation is to provide a public school alternative. That's what we need to do, and that's what we will do. Hopefully, or it is the case that we do provide a choice for parents within our public school system, through the option program, but we also provide choice for them to use the private school system. And if they choose to do so, that's fine. We still have an obligation to require accreditation, and so on, of private schools, again, going back to our obligation in the constitution. If we're going to allow a choice for a private school, then we have to make sure that our constitutional obligation is being fulfilled; thereby we have accreditation requirements. So again, I oppose this amendment. I don't think this is a good policy. It's not good timing. And it's not a good use of limited funds at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Maxwell, you are recognized to close.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. Just a few observations. I agree with Senator Chambers, this has been a good debate. I also agree with Senator Bromm, I'm a little disappointed it focused so much on the private school/public school dichotomy. But since it did, just a few closing observations. One, the private school teacher goes through the same certification process, has to